

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REPLACEMENT OF BUST OF ROGER BROOKE TANEY WITH BUST OF THURGOOD MARSHALL

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 5229, legislation to: remove the bust of Roger Taney from the United States Capitol and commission a new statue honoring Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Let us salute those who have fought for this action in the House:

Leader STENY HOYER

Whip JIM CLYBURN

CBC Chair JOYCE BEATTY

Chair BENNIE THOMPSON

Congresswoman BARBARA LEE

Congressman G. K. BUTTERFIELD and our former colleague, Mayor Karen Bass.

Driven by their leadership, this Chamber has proudly and repeatedly voted to remove statues of Taney, Confederate officials and other advocates of bigotry from the Capitol grounds.

The House is grateful to the Senate for taking an important step forward—voting unanimously to remove this vile tribute to Taney—author of the horrendous Dred Scott ruling.

We look forward to swiftly sending this bill to the President's desk, and we remain committed to sweeping out other vestiges of hate from the halls of Congress.

This building is a Temple of Democracy. It is a monument to our nation's most fundamental ideals.

It reflects all that we take pride in as a nation—and so too should the tributes that grace its halls.

They should honor those who sought to strengthen our Democracy for all—not weaken it in favor of a few.

They should honor those who fought to expand freedom—not restrict its blessings.

There is no room for celebrating the violent, racist atrocities of our past—nor those who championed them.

That is why, in 2020, I proudly ordered the removal of the portraits of four Speakers who traitorously served in the Confederacy.

It is why the House has voted to remove Confederate statues from the Capitol.

And it is why we have made clear again and again that Roger Taney must have no place under this sacred roof.

Taney's legacy is one of hatred and oppression:

a mind twisted by bigotry

and a lifetime spent defending the evils of slavery.

He is inextricably linked to one of the most horrific chapters of our history. And yet, this bigot's likeness still casts a shadow over the Old Supreme Court Chamber.

Who better to replace him than one of the most admired jurists of our history: Justice Thurgood Marshall.

A trailblazing champion of civil rights—a voice for equal justice under the law and a force for our Democracy—Justice Marshall sought to uphold the best of America.

Personally, I will be deeply proud to see this Baltimore native take his rightful place amid the Capitol's pantheon of great American patriots.

His statue will bring luster to this building, just as his legacy continues to bring luster to our nation: guiding America toward the future our children deserve—one ruled by understanding, not prejudice.

Indeed, speaking in Philadelphia's Independence Hall three decades ago, Justice Marshall warned:

"Democracy cannot flourish amid fear. Liberty cannot bloom amid hate. Justice cannot take root amid rage."

Today, the Congress honors those words. With this vote, we toss into the dustbin of history a monument to fear—to hate—to rage.

With this vote, we renew our resolve to ensure that:

Democracy will flourish

liberty will bloom

and justice will take root, from sea to shining sea.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a resounding, bipartisan 'aye' vote to finally send this bill to the President for signature.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE PITTMAN MEEK

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, from the 24th District of the great State of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Congresswoman Carrie Pittman Meek and commend her for her devotion to the Nation and its ideals.

Whereas, Carrie Mae Pittman was born on April 29, 1926, in Tallahassee, Florida, where she was raised, the youngest of 12 children of Willie and Carrie Pittman. She was the daughter of sharecroppers and granddaughter of a slave; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Meek earned a bachelor's degree in biology and physical education from Florida A&M University while setting records as a track and field athlete. Due to a ban in Florida that prevented Black students from attending State graduate schools, Ms. Meek enrolled at the University of Michigan, where she earned a master's degree in public health and physical education; and

Whereas, upon graduation, she accepted a position at Bethune Cookman College as an instructor and became the institution's first female basketball coach. In 1958, she returned to Florida A&M as an instructor in Health and Physical Education; a position she held until 1961. Meek continued her teaching career at Miami Dade Community College as the first

Black professor, associate dean, and assistant to the Vice President from 1961 to 1979; and

Whereas, in 1979, Meek began her trailblazing political career as a Democratic Florida State House Representative. From 1983 to 1993, she served as the first African American woman in the Florida State Senate and went on to become a United States Congresswoman representing Florida's 17th Congressional district. One of the first Black members from Florida elected to Congress since the Reconstruction Era, Meek was a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee and worked to secure \$100 million in aid to rebuild Dade County as the area recovered from Hurricane Andrew. While in the House, Congresswoman Meek focused her attention on issues such as economic development, health care, education, and housing. She led legislation through Congress to improve Dade County's transit system, airport, and seaport; to construct a new family and childcare center in northern Dade County; and to fund advanced aviation training programs at Miami-Dade Community College. Meek emerged as a strong advocate for Haitian immigrants and senior citizens; and

Whereas, Ms. Meek later retired from public office in 2002 and founded the Carrie Meek Foundation, which provides the Miami-Dade community with critical resources, opportunities, and jobs. Ms. Meek was awarded honorary Juris Doctor degrees from the University of Miami, Florida A&M University, Barry University, Florida Atlantic University, and Rollins College. Ms. Meek was inducted into the Florida A&M University Sports Hall of Fame and honored with the co-naming of its James N. Eaton, Sr., Southeastern Regional Black Archives Research Center and Museum in Tallahassee, Florida. Ms. Meek was honored with the renaming of Broward County's Nova Southeastern College's Outstanding Education Leadership Achievement Scholarship and Miami, Florida's Northwest 27th Boulevard; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Meek leaves to continue her work and carry on her legacy her children: Lucia Davis-Raiford, Sheila Davis Kinui (Mike), Kendrick B. Meek (Arshi); grandchildren: Ayo Raiford Barrett, Maggie Aldophe, Ryan C. Aldophe, Amber F. Kinui, Carrie Y. Kinui, Lauren Meek, Kendrick Meek, Jr.; great-grandchildren: Alana Barrett, Carissa Barrett, Anya Bonhomme, Bryce Lim, Chloe Raiford, Aidan Barrett. Woven into the tapestry of her life were special nieces and nephews: Juanita Pittman Bivins, Betty J. Pittman, Samuel Pittman, Jr. (Shirley), Cynthia G. Gilliam, Dr. Vincent June, Carmen V. Terry, Dorothy Ottman. Left to mourn her and sit in the shade under the trees in the forest she planted are a host of family members, dear cherished friends, and a beloved community; and Now, therefore, be it

Resolved That I, FREDERICA S. WILSON, a member of the United States House of Representatives representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, am honored to recognize the late Congresswoman Carrie Pittman

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.